Tax on Income from agriculture

†263. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to bring the income from agriculture under the net of income tax is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Income-tax assessees in Karnataka

264. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of income-tax assessees in Karnataka;

(b) whether PAN has been allotted to all income-tax assessees;

(c) if not, how many are yet to get the PAN;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to give PAN to all IT assessees in Karnataka; and

(e) the total revenue collected from income-tax from Karnataka during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Total number of income-tax assessees in Karnataka is 17,17,208 (Seventeen lacs seventeen thousand two hundred eight only).

(b) Out of the above, 16,62,824 (sixteen lacs sixty-two thousand eight hundred twenty four) assessees have been allotted PAN.

(c) Thus, 54,384 (fifty-four thousand three hundred eighty four) assessees are yet to get PAN.

(d) From 1st July 2003, the work of allotment of PAN has been entrusted to UTI Investor Services Ltd. by the CBDT. Department of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Revenue. Further, from 7th June, 2004 the work of allotment of PAN has been entrusted to NSDL (National Securities Depository Ltd.) also in addition to UTIISL. From the Assessment Year 2004-05, the assessees have to compulsory quote PAN or enclose proof of having filed application seeking allotment of PAN while filing return of income. With this prescription, it is hoped that all assessees would get PAN allotted during the financial year 2004-05.

(e) The total revenue collected by way of income-tax from Karnataka during Financial Year 2003-04 is Rs. 3903.48 crores (This is besides collection of Rs. 3604.22 crores by way of Corporate Taxes).

Concessional loans by IDA

265. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, makes concessional long-term loans to its member countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the IDA credits carry on interest charges but a service charge of 0.75 per cent; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the credit to India upto 30th June, 1987 is repayable in 50 years with a grace period of 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) IDA provides concessional long-term loans to member countries as per eligibility norms for IDA assistance.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Credits to India, approved upto 30th June 1987 are repayable in 50 years inclusive of a grace period of 10 years.

Enhanced bank credit for farmers

266. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced a package of debt relief and enhanced bank credit for farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the total estimated bank debt